



# MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume II Issue III

June, 2004

## Members Give Contest Their Best Shot



The *Manataba Messenger* is proud to announce the winners of its June Photo Contest. First prize goes to Christine Thomas for her picture of her great niece, Sophia Sevada (top left). Christine will receive \$100.

Second prize goes to Geneva Moore for her picture of a friend dressed as "Fry Bread Queen" for Halloween (top right). Geneva will receive \$50 for her entry.

Third prize goes to Lillie May Townsend for a photo of a Mohave woman in traditional dress (right). She will receive a \$25 prize.

Honorable mention goes to Anita Perez for her photo of her great grandson (lower left) and Mickey Sue Anderson for her photo of teddy bears (lower right).

**Because of its popularity, the *Manataba Messenger* will have a photo contest in each issue. Please submit any new photos (photos submitted for a previous issue's contest will not be considered) to:**

*Manataba Messenger*  
c/o Rose & Allyn  
7051 E. Scottsdale Road, Suite B  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Or e-mail your entry to [critnews@aol.com](mailto:critnews@aol.com).

You must be a Tribal member to enter, and must have taken the photo yourself. Entries for the August 1 issue must be received by July 10th.

Congratulations to our winners!



## La Paz Lands efforts gain momentum

**Chairman testifies in Washington, D.C. as vote nears on legislation**

CRIT has taken several important steps forward in the past couple of months in its efforts to reclaim the La Paz Lands.

The lands, some 16,000 acres, are located south of the current CRIT reservation boundaries near Interstate 10, between the Quartzsite area and the California border. They were taken from the Tribes in the early 1900s by the Federal Government.

Since then, several efforts have been launched to have the lands returned to the Tribes, but none has proceeded as far as the effort currently underway.

The most important event to date took place on April 21, when the U.S. House of Representatives' Resources Committee conducted a hearing on the issue.

Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr., accompanied by councilmembers Russell Welsh, Cindy Homer, Daphne Hill-Poolaw and T.J. Laffoon, spoke on behalf of CRIT. Also, Michael Olsen, counsel to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for the Bush's administration, spoke in favor of the Tribe's position.

La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher also submitted written testimony in support of CRIT's efforts. There was no testimony against the Tribes.

After the hearing, the Tribes began working

### More on La Paz Lands

See Pages 2 and 3 for excerpts from testimony by Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. and La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher before the House Resources Committee.

Please see LANDS, Page 8

## In This Issue...

- ◆ Meet your tribal council, Page 2
- ◆ Congressional testimony on La Paz Lands, Page 2 and 3
- ◆ Upcoming events, Page 3
- ◆ "Family Feud" softball, Page 5
- ◆ Interview with Congressman Rick Renzi, Page 6
- ◆ CRIT graduates excel, Page 7
- ◆ Profile of Tribal member-owned business, Page 7



# News, information from your Tribal Government

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.  
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh  
Tribal Council: Cindy Homer (Secretary),  
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,  
Daphne Hill-Poolaw, Ray Aspa, Sr.,  
Herman “TJ” Laffoon, Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

## The Arizona Republic supports CRIT on lands

*Excerpts from the Republic’s May 15 editorial supporting CRIT’s La Paz Lands effort:*

It has been a worthy struggle, a struggle that has lasted nearly 90 years. And it's within the power of Congress to bring it to a noble end by returning 16,000 acres of land that were wrongly taken from the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Congress should do so. It must remedy an injustice against these tribes — Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo...

The return of these La Paz lands is long overdue. Amazingly, still in the ground are the original surveying caps from 1875, which clearly show that the 16,000 acres southeast of today's reservation boundary belong to the tribes...

As tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr. told the U.S. House Committee on Resources recently, those caps are "a stark reminder" of the La Paz lands taken from the CRIT...

It is time that Congress corrected this 90-year-old injustice, and Grijalva's bill is the way to do it.

## Supervisor’s stance on lands shows need for history lesson

While La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher has been a supportive voice for CRIT’s efforts to regain the La Paz Lands, Supervisor Cliff Edey’s arguments against the Tribes’ position ring hollow and defy common sense.

According to an article in *The Arizona Republic*, Edey opposes the Tribes’ efforts to reclaim the lands because he’s concerned about future growth impacts on Ehrenberg and Quartzsite.

The La Paz Lands are miles away from both communities, and Quartzsite’s growth corridor is to the east, not west, of the La Paz Lands. And while we support economic development by our fellow county residents in Ehrenberg, we’re still waiting to see what economic development plan Edey has up his sleeve that defies current growth patterns.

But more importantly, the La Paz Lands were taken from the Tribes back in the early 1900s under the same kind of thinking — that it’s more important to ensure the prosperity of others than the sovereignty of the Tribes and its land.

It was wrong back then for the Federal Government to take these lands away from CRIT in the name of financial gain for outsiders. And it would be wrong now to deny our people their rightful claim to the lands for the same reasons.

History has a way of repeating itself. But hopefully, this time around the end result will be different. We have tried and will continue to try and extend the olive branch to Supervisor Edey. It’s just more difficult when a person who should know better continues to send common sense and the facts right over a Cliff.

## Your Tribal Council at work for you

### Enas promotes better rapport with members

**Stresses ‘open-door policy’ and desire to improve communication**

After 10 years on the CRIT Tribal Council, Councilman Eldred Enas has found to be true what he initially thought when he first sought elected office.

“I thought it would be a challenging endeavor in life, to get into politics,” he said.

And he has been right, as he’s worked with the other Tribal Council members to address the needs of CRIT members over the years.

But more recently, his focus has been on one of the most basic of concepts.

“This term I have dedicated myself to better governmental relations with members. I want the council to have a better rapport with the membership, so that’s one area I’ve been focusing on,” he said.

“I have an open-door policy toward all Tribal members.”

Along with improved communication, the



Councilman Eldred Enas

Tribal Treasurer said that there are other key issues he focuses on as a council member.

“My main concern is our elders and our young children,” he said. “They are truly our top priorities.”

“And I also want to work on economic development, and providing better services and more of them. I’d like to see us have more services that are more accommodating to Tribal members.”

In his spare time, Enas is a member of the VFW 7061 Post in Parker and of the Parker Indian Rodeo Association.

But Enas said that his work on Tribal Council takes up the bulk of his time.

In fact, as he talked with the *Manataba Messenger*, he sorted through a stack of papers and invoices on his desk.

Overall, he said his time on the Tribal Council has been “challenging and rewarding,” especially as he’s focused on improving the Council’s communication with members.

And, when asked what his message to members would be, he responds with a simple one on behalf of the Tribal Council as a whole: “We’re here to help.”

“I’m thankful for the support the members have shown me and their belief in me,” he said.

“I thank them for putting me on the council and allowing me to serve as long as I have. Every vote has been appreciated.”

## Chairman Eddy testifies before Congress

### Urges return of La Paz Lands to Tribes after 90 years of injustice

*The following are excerpts from testimony by Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. before the House Resources Committee hearing on the La Paz Lands:*

Quite simply, H.R. 2941 (the bill that would return the La Paz Lands to CRIT) seeks to rectify an old injustice.

The Colorado River Indian Reservation was created by Executive Order of President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865, just over a month before his assassination.

In 1873 and 1874, President Grant issued two Executive Orders to expand the southern edge of the Reservation to acknowledge the true ancestral lands of the tribes and to halt the encroachment on these lands by settlers and miners.

In 1875, Mr. Chandler Robins surveyed the CRIT Reservation (the “Robins Survey”) for the U.S. General Land Office and delineated its southern boundary.

The Robins Survey included approximately 16,000 acres (called “The La Paz Lands”) as part of the Reservation. On May 15, 1876, President Grant issued an Executive Order that established the Reservation’s boundaries as those delineated by the Robins Survey.

Around the turn of the century, it was believed that there may be valuable mineral deposits under the La Paz Lands.

In the early 20th century, due in part to cultural prohibitions on mining, CRIT rejected repeated requests by private mining interests to lease lands in the La Paz area.

Frustrated by the Tribes’ refusal to allow mining on these lands, these mining interests orchestrated several more surveys between 1907 and 1912 that they hoped would prove that the La Paz Lands were not



part of the CRIT Reservation. At that time, the U.S. General Land Office determined that these additional surveys were lacking...

Mr. Chairman, I want to stress that the original surveying caps put in the ground by the Robins Survey team in 1875 are still in place. I have enclosed photographs of these markers at the southern end of the La Paz Land boundaries in materials provided to the Committee.

These caps are an indication of the perimeter of our original reservation and a stark reminder of the 16,000 acres that were stripped from us in 1915.

Nevertheless in 1915, despite the best efforts of our Tribes to protect our lands, the mining company convinced an Assistant Secretary of the Interior in the Woodrow Wilson administration to remove these La Paz Lands from our reservation on the premise



# ADOR clarifies CRIT tax-exempt status

In February, an open letter was sent to every Tribal member designed to answer questions about what sales taxes apply to CRIT members in the Parker area.

The Arizona Department of Revenue last year issued an opinion that Tribal members are exempt from paying town, county or state sales taxes on reservation lands or “fee lands” in the Town of Parker.

ADOR met with the Town of Parker in late March (a meeting that did not include CRIT) and issued a letter on April 12 providing further information on sales taxes on CRIT lands. The April 12 letter reaffirmed that CRIT members are exempt from local, county or state taxes on reservation lands whether the business in question is owned by a Tribal member or not. If a business is owned by a Tribal member, they can, but are not required to, collect taxes from non-tribal members.

However, ADOR changed its position slightly in the April 12 letter. It referenced language that was included in the original Congressional act that established CRIT in 1865, which stated that the five founding tribes (Mohave, Chemehuevis, Quechans, Yavapais and Hualapais) “and other Indians of said River and its tributaries” would be part of CRIT.

Therefore, ADOR concluded, all CRIT members and members of tribes who settled

When CRIT members pay taxes...

- Business owned by non-Tribal member, located off reservation.
- Business owned by CRIT member, but located off reservation.

When non-members pay taxes...

- If business is owned by Tribal member and is on reservation, the owner is exempt from taxes, but customer owes a use tax.
- All other transactions on or off reservation.

along the Colorado River and its tributaries on and after March 3, 1865, are exempt from taxes. Additionally, ADOR has dropped the previous requirement that Tribal members show a copy of Arizona Form 5000 when they request tax-exempt status.

The new position does not address CRIT’s belief that Tribal members and members of the tribes mentioned above should be exempt from taxes for motor vehicles if they live on the CRIT reservation, regardless of whether or not the vehicle was bought on the reservation.

Also, the purchase of off-reservation goods is exempt from taxation if the purchase contract was closed on the reservation and the goods were delivered from an off-reservation vendor to the buyer on the reservation.

# Supervisor supports Tribes’ stance

*The following are excerpts from testimony by La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher before the House Resources Committee hearing on the La Paz Lands:*

This bill is designed to correct an error that happened in 1915 regarding the southern boundary of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation. I support H.R. 2941 and I hope that after hearing the facts regarding this bill you will support it as well.

An analysis dated October 15, 1974 by the Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs seems clear that the original intent of including these lands as part of the reservation was for the protection of the tribe from outsiders who wanted to benefit from the tribe’s land. Surveys were needed to clearly mark the reservation so that non Indians would not encroach on tribal lands for personal gain.

Three surveys are at the heart of this debate. The facts appear to be indisputable that the Stover survey used to justify the Executive Order signed by President Wilson on November 22, 1915 was in error as evidenced by the fact that the survey was never adopted by

the General Land Office. Conversely, the survey completed by Mr. Robins in 1875 and retraced and resurveyed by Mr. Harrington in 1912 was approved December 16, 1915 by the General Land Office. Again, the Stover survey was never approved. The lands that are being requested to be returned to CRIT were part of their reservation for almost 40 years prior to the 1915 Executive Order. This is not a request to expand the reservation; it is a request to restore the reservation based on accepted surveys by Mr. Robins and later by Mr. Harrington...

It is wrong to deny this land to the tribe because of anyone’s position that others could possibly benefit from this land in the future. Our County is more than 4400 square miles in area. Most of it federal land. The County’s future and that of our towns and unincorporated communities will not depend on whether or not Congress approves this restoration to CRIT. This bill should be considered on the facts surrounding the case, not on who would or could gain if the land is not restored to CRIT.

on these lands.

I would hasten to add that the Tribes currently has a successful gaming operation at the northern end of the Reservation and we currently operate the maximum number of machines that are permitted under our Tribal-State Gaming Compact.

I want to point out that there are no appropriated funds affiliated or sought with this legislation. Nor will there be a request for any type of compensation for denial of use of these lands by our Tribe.

The La Paz Lands continue to hold cultural and historical significance, as well as economic development potential, for CRIT.

We have waited 90 years for the restoration of these lands. We believe we have waited long enough.

We think that greed robbed us of the use of these lands for many generations. But patience and a persistent confidence that the Federal Government will eventually do what is proper and honorable will return our lands to us.

# Upcoming Events

## BlueWater Resort & Casino to celebrate 5th Anniversary

Plan to join BlueWater Resort & Casino on the weekend of June 12 and help celebrate its 5th Anniversary with the Hoot 'n Holler Carnivale.

BlueWater has planned several special events, including free food, fireworks, fun and a special concert by .38 Special.

The theme is Mardi Gras and "Five Times the Fun.”

Following the concert there will be a fireworks display to commemorate the 5th Anniversary.

Also, the "Hoot 'n Holler" special promotion runs until June 12.

Players at the casino will receive entries to become one of the 5 lucky winners to spin the "Hoot 'n Holler" wheel for up to \$5,000 on June 12.

Finally, also on June 12, the Bingo Hall will hold High Stakes Bingo with payouts of over \$21,000. Don’t miss out!

## Entertainment, events and concerts coming to resort, amphitheater

- The following is a list of the 2004 Summer Concert Series:
  - July 3: Unauthorized Ozzy– A Tribute to Ozzy Osbourne, featuring "Poor Man Paul" & "Sweet Al."
  - August 12: Lou Gramm
  - September 18: Tower of Power
  - October 16: Honky Tonk Tailgate Party, featuring Daryle Singletary, Rhett Akins, Chad Brock & David Kersh.
- Fireworks will follow all the Outdoor concerts.
- Tickets are on sale now for .38 Special in the Gift Shop for \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show.
- Tickets for Unauthorized Ozzy will go on sale on June 1, and the prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 day of show.

- There’s also live music in the Dig Lounge each week from Tuesday through Sunday, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Upcoming entertainment acts include:
  - June 1-6: Livin’ On The Edge. Native American five-piece group playing oldies, 60s, 70s, country and a variety of dance music.
  - June 8-13: Suite 33. A high-energy variety dance band featuring top 40, classic rock and music from the 50s and 60s.
  - June 15-20: Radio Rage, a dance band plating classic rock and disco.
  - June 22-27: Dane Rinehardt Band. A four-piece band from Reno, Nevada specializing in classic rock, top 40, dance and alternative.
  - Also, the Dig Lounge hosts karaoke with Billy Joe Preston every Monday night from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- On June 5, the BlueWater Resort & Casino presents the 27th Annual Great Western Tube Float, in conjunction with the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Hundreds of tubes and riders will be floating down the Colorado River and finishing at BlueWater Beach.
- This event is open to the public. For more information, call the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce at (928) 669-2174.



# Manataba Messenger Interviews...

## Supervisor shows support for Tribal issues, lands

La Paz County Supervisor Gene Fisher represents the CRIT reservation, and has been a strong advocate for Tribal issues since taking office in 1988. Most recently, he has continued his support, both on the local and national levels, of the Tribes' efforts to reclaim the La Paz Lands.

The *Manataba Messenger* interviewed Fisher on a variety of issues. Here's what he had to say:

**Q:** You have been a supporter of CRIT's bid to restore the La Paz Lands to the Tribe. What prompted you to support this effort?

**A:** I have supported CRIT's bid to restore the La Paz Lands because it is the right thing to do. CRIT has more than adequate documentation to describe the events that led to first getting the land and then ultimately losing it.

CRIT is not asking for new lands to increase the size of their reservation, they are asking to have lands that were taken from them returned.

They deserve to have this issue heard in Congress. I believe if Congress hears this issue,



Supervisor Gene Fisher

CRIT will eventually get the land returned.

**Q:** You represent the 1st district of the County. Are there any unique issues that have an impact in that part of the county?

**A:** All the lands in District 1 are wholly within the exterior boundaries of the Colorado River Indian Reservation. As a result of the last redistricting effort, the majority of the Town of Parker is also now in District 1.

As you know, redistricting is required every ten years and the population in each County must be divided equally between the districts. La Paz is one of ten counties in Arizona that have three Supervisorial Districts.

What many people fail to understand is just how much the county is affected by the economy generated on reservation lands. I take every opportunity to help people understand what a vital part of our county District 1 is.

The land is not taxable but District 1 contributes a lot to the success of La Paz in many other ways. Agriculture is the 2nd largest industry in the county and 90+% of the agriculture in the county is on the CRIT Reservation. The BlueWater Resort and Casino is the largest promoter of events in the county has a very positive effect on tourism in our County and tourism is the number-one industry in the County.

**Q:** What are some of the more pressing issues you see La Paz County facing in the future?

**A:** Economic development is something

that we truly want and will probably always be seeking in La Paz. We would like to be in a position to attract clean industries so that our children can stay in the area and provide a good living for their families.

We do need more affordable housing here and yet La Paz County is now at a point where wildcat subdivisions are beginning to appear, mostly in District 3, and it is becoming a very big issue. One 40-acre parcel can be divided and divided and yet divided again until you have a subdivision with no streets, curbs or other infrastructure.

Then the County is faced with large numbers of dwellings with no real infrastructure and citizens who become angry because the county can't pave the roads, add curbs and in general do the things that would take place in a real subdivision.

**Q:** If a tribal member would like to contact you, what should they do?

**A:** We are such a small community that it is very easy to contact me. A lot of the time I will see someone at the post office or the grocery store and they will ask me about an issue or sometimes about a problem they have and ask for my help.

It doesn't need to be in my office but I certainly be reached there. My office phone number is (928) 669-6115 and my home phone is (928) 662-4806.

Thank you for inviting me to share a little about myself and my experiences in representing District 1.



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915 Arizona Avenue  
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# Time To Play The Feud

Seven CRIT families participated in a Family Feud Softball Tournament at Manataba Park on April 23 and 24.

The Booth Family took first place by beating the Mariscal Family twice for the championship. The Eddy Family was third.

The event was so well-received that family members are hoping the CRIT Recreation Department will make it an annual event.

Sponsors included Aha Quin, CRIT Auto Shop, Colorado River Building Materials, CRIT Farms, CRIT Fire and CRIT Recreation.



The Booth Family



The Eddy Family



The Esquerria Family



The Fisher Family



The Hunter Family



The Lewis Family



The Mariscal Family

## Housing violations to be targeted

Due to unacceptable and illegal activities occurring within the low-rent housing developments under management by the Colorado River Residential Management Corporation, there will be an immediate crackdown on enforcement of lease terms and maintaining the peace.

Management staff will be working with housing security and the CRIT Police Department to take several steps to remedy issues within the housing areas, including:

- Imposing CRIT curfew laws. The laws are posted and copies are available at the management office at Desert Sun development.
- Holding hearings on infractions of low-rent leases.
- Terminating leases whose terms have been violated, if necessary.

The actions are being taken with the support of the CRIT Tribal Council, CRRMC Board and the CRIT Police Department.

The CRRMC now has a termination hearing board, and each month will be hearing cases related to infractions of low-rent leases and non-payment issues.

Additionally, it has been noticed that unlawful activities are being perpetrated by people not living in the developments. Those individuals spotted in the development will be placed on an undesirable list and can be arrested for criminal trespass or any other violations of the law.

Anyone experiencing unlawful activities in these areas should call CRIT Police at (928) 669-1277, or R & B Security at (928) 669-0481 or (928) 669-0228.

## CRIT BRIEFS

### News from around the Reservation

#### CRIT Education Department prepares lab for Orchard software

The Parker School District's Orchard computerized learning program is available for students and parents to use in the CRIT Education Department's computer lab.

This is a unique opportunity for students to come in and work on subject areas that may have been weaker during the school year. Since Orchard is fun and easy to use, parents don't need to have a grasp of the new math or American history. They can learn it with their kids. The Department understands that grown-ups are interested to keep learning too. This gives everyone a chance to do it together.

Call (928) 669-8831 for summer hours.

#### New learning packet educates on Tribal history, culture

The Education Department continues to develop Native-based curriculum for students in the Parker School District. The latest product is a Chemehuevi Learning Centers Packet for use in grades 6 through 12.

In this cooperative learning center, students divide into teams of five and rotate through each one of the centers, responding to various activities. The students work together to learn about the tribe's culture.

Educational research shows that deeper learning takes place when subject areas are combined through a single theme. District teachers will be taking advantage of this program through language arts. The Mohave version is currently in use, while Hopi and Navajo are in progress.

If you would like your child's teacher to include the Chemehuevi Learning Centers in their classroom, encourage them to call the department at (928) 669-8831.

#### CRIT Library announces upcoming activities, learning opportunities

- Winners in the "Guess how many books in the Library" contest were Sheryl Williams, Stacia Scott, Leo Scott and Angela Naranjo.
- The Library will be holding a book discussion on July 8th. The featured book is "Crazy Weather."
- Also, free computer classes are still being offered Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Watch for flyers on Microsoft workshops. For more information, call (928) 669-1332.

#### Native American youth conference to celebrate leadership

The United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference will be held at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix on June 25-29, 2004. Youth from the ages of 15-24 are expected to attend this dynamic conference. Registration for the conference is \$150 until June 10, 2004.

The youth participants actively participate in building the conference choice topics and have tackled important issues such as alcohol and drug prevention, abstinence, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and other difficult topics.

For more information on the conference or the organization, or to register for the event, visit [www.unityinc.org](http://www.unityinc.org).

### CRIT Birthdays

- Adrian Chavez, May 16.
- Etta Hooper, July 1.
- Neola Ameelyenah, July 2.
- Gail Lewis, June 15.

- Talia Chaves, July 6.
  - Collette Lewis, July 10.
  - Dion Dubray, Jr., July 15.
  - Danielle Dubray, July 22.
  - Hepah Homer Lomayesva, July 22.
- Happy birthday to all CRIT members!



# Manataba Messenger Interviews...

## Congressman supports Arizona tribes

Congressman Rick Renzi represents eight Arizona tribes, and has been an advocate for the return of the La Paz Lands to CRIT. He took time to answer questions recently for the *Manataba Messenger*.

**Q:** What would you say about the importance of maintaining government-to-government consultation with tribes?

**A:** I believe in the sovereign nature and self-determination of each tribe. The Federal government needs to listen to the voices of the people and understand the needs of the Native American population. Recently, I hosted members of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee for a Hearing on the Navajo Nation. This hearing followed an extensive tour of housing sites with one-on-one meetings between Tribal officials and members of Congress. I am committed to working directly with the tribal governments to assure that their interests are pursued by bringing leaders in Washington to Native communities where they can see the situation with their own eyes.

**Q:** What are your priority issues in working with tribes?



Congressman Rick Renzi

**A:** My goals to bring improved healthcare, education, housing and public safety to Native Americans are of foremost concern to me. Each one of my three committee assignments can be utilized to promote the goals of Native Americans. Through my seat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, I am able to influence policy decisions that effect the tens of thousands of Native American veterans who honorably serve in our armed forces.

On the Resources Committee, I sit on the Forest Health and Water & Power subcommittees. I am the Vice-Chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee. From these seats, I have helped Tribal governments access natural resource values that exist on their lands, and I support legislation that allows tribal governments the sovereign authority to control the areas within their boundaries.

From my seat on the Financial Services Committee and the Housing Subcommittee, I oversee legislation that provides Tribal governments with the necessary access to affordable housing loans and Federal programs to assist with residential property financing.

**Q:** What is your long-term vision for your work with Indian tribes?

**A:** Improvement of the quality and the delivery of basic government services to Native American populations and communities across the country. Whether for education, healthcare, transportation, housing, law enforcement or basic assistance projects, the funding levels for the BIA needs to be raised and the current situations of poverty, disease, drought and crime need to be evaluated and addressed immediately.

# Enrollment offers ID cards, updated info

The Enrollment Department would like to pass on the following information to members:

• Please be sure your most recent address is on file with the office so that you can be kept abreast of all news and information. Submit any change of address in writing or in person to: CRIT Enrollment, Route 1 Box 23-B, Parker, 85344 or call (928) 669-1240.

• Also, parents are encouraged to make sure their children are enrolled as soon as possible after their birth.

• Tribal ID cards are issued to all members upon completion of their application. The first ID card is free; duplicates are \$10 (including for change of address).

• Please note that the following Tribal members owe a \$10 fee to the department for a duplicate card:

Merrick Sam, Jr., Ramona Macias, Frank McCowan, Josephine Tahbo, Monica Gonzalez, Doria Johnson, Natalie Chee, Christopher Fisher, Megan Drennan, Isabel Eddy, Leonard Fisher, Jr., Ava Miller, Anissa Carter, Katrina Dubray, Patronella Swick, Velma Ameelyenah, Brice Little, Faerie Hatch, Merial Scott, Estelle Fisher, Gregory Salgado, Jr., Danielle Levias, Desiree Dick, Andrea Stevens, Loren Tahbo, Leyadashea Burroughs, Shawna Scott, Theodore Smith, Montana Garza, Lisa Cook, Ginger Swick, Melody Stevens, Tasha Tahbo, Julie Zeyouma (promissory note), Rondina Carter (promissory note), James Rogers (promissory note) and Michael Deysie (promissory note).

These IDs will not be issued until payment is received.

# Parker High School students learn about Tribal government



On May 7th, a group of students from Parker High School visited the CRIT Tribal Offices to learn more about Tribal government. Their lesson included participating in a “model” Tribal Council.

*TOP: Jamie Carrillio, Jesse Ruiz, Erina Deysie, Hollie Holmes, Anthony Flores, Fordner Fisher and Christina Holt are sworn into office as “mock” Tribal Councilmembers.*

*RIGHT: The students hit the ground running and learn about how Tribal Council works.*



# Colorado River Building Materials



# A Full-Service Hardware Store & Lumberyard

600 Riverside Drive  
Parker, Arizona 85344  
(928) 669-9254



## Members clean up in Earth Day contest



In honor of Earth Day 2004, the CRIT Environmental Protection Office sponsored a community wide clean-up project entitled “Tara-uy” (Mohave word for “clean-up”).

Teams were solicited to sign up for this high competitive contest. Cash prizes consisted of \$1,000.00 for 1st place, \$500.00 for 2nd, and \$250.00 for 3rd.

A total of 16 teams signed up in this “race to the CRIT landfill.” Teams were only allowed to collect appliances and bagged household trash. Each team was responsible to save and collect their team’s tonnage receipts from their drop-offs at the CRIT transfer site.

Team winners were announced at a BBQ on May 8, 2004. Approximately 75 community members were in attendance. First place went to Wreck Crew-Victor Robledo; second place, CRIT Trashers-Melissa Drennan; and third place went to Trash Thrasher-Andrea Stevens.

Together the teams collected over 100 tons of trash. Congratulations to ALL the teams for the hard work they put into “Tara-uy.”

*(Above) Tomarko Stevens, Jesus Rodriguez and another team member participate in the “Tara-uy” contest and help clean up Tribal lands. Sixteen teams that collected a combined 100 tons of trash.*

*(Below) Participants celebrate their success cleaning up Tribal lands at a barbecue.*



## 23rd Annual CRIT Education Banquet honors students

Honoring the achievements of our tribal students has been a tradition at the Education Department for almost a quarter century. Again this year K-12 students with perfect attendance, two or more quarters on the honor roll, and high school graduates have been honored.

On May 20, the honorees and parents/guardians met in the Mohave Rooms for dinner and to receive their awards. Entertainment featured dances and songs from all four tribes, danced by school-age students. Tribal Council members passed out the awards.

The honorees included the CRIT students who were part of the 2004 graduating class from Parker High School. This year’s seniors:

Andrea Anspach  
Laura Bayard  
Erinia L. Deysie  
Fordner Fisher  
Stormi Flood  
Anthony Flores  
Hollie Holmes  
Christina Holt  
Daniel Leivas  
Elizabeth A. Lueskow  
Martin E. Patch  
Jesse Ruiz  
Anthony Scott  
Dawn Solano

Congratulations to all the award winners and members of the 2004 graduating class!

## Career Development provides funding, salutes graduates

The CRIT Career Development Office would like to congratulate the following CRIT members who graduated this year.

- Shawn Thompson, University of Arizona.
- Michael Aspa, Jr., Aims College.
- Jason Zeyouma, Collins College.
- Granthum Stevens, Haskell University.
- Eileen Benally, University of New Mexico.
- Kenton Laffoon, Sr., Arizona State Univ.
- Erica Welsh, Mesa Community College.
- Jesus Mariscal, Jr., UNLV.
- Fawn Tahbo, Mesa Community College.
- Victor Shortey, North American Technical.
- William Eddy, Phoenix Massage Therapy.
- Lena Nez, Chemawa Indian School.

Career Development is also accepting applications for the Higher Education, Adult Vocational Training (AVT), and Boarding School Programs for the upcoming academic year. The deadline is June 30 at 5 p.m.

CRIT provides funding for students interested in these programs who meet certain financial criteria. The Tribes also provide funding for students to participate in youth programs, and for employment training.

To find out more about the programs and funding options, please contact Valerie-Welsh Tahbo, Olivia Barley, or Stephanie Enas at (928) 669-5548 or (800) 809-6207.

Finally, Career Development has implemented an “Academic Achievement Incentive” Program where current Higher Education and AVT students are eligible to receive a monetary stipend for being named to school honor lists. Current students can submit their awards and/or letters to the Career Development Office for monetary stipend.

## Focus on...Member-Owned Business

### Oasis Market has big plans for future

Business has been good at the Oasis Market in Earp, on the California side of the CRIT reservation.

But it could still be better, says co-owner Lance Eddy.

“We’re doing pretty good for not running at 100 percent right now,” he said. “We want to improve what we’ve got here.”

That means the three-year-old business, owned by Lance Eddy along with brother Gerald and father Larry, wants to add pavement to its parking lot and add gas pumps in the future, among other improvements.

They are hoping to make these improvements within the next year.

“We cater to a lot of truck drivers and tourists,” Eddy said. “We also want to be able to explain more why the town is called Earp.

“This is the busiest part of town right here — everyone comes in and says ‘Where’s downtown Earp?’ And I say, ‘You’re standing in it, right here.’”

Eddy said they also hope to add the



*Lance Eddy mans the counter at the Oasis Market.*

California lottery in the coming months as part of their overall goal to improve the store.

He said that because of the tourists that come to the area to spend time on the Colorado River, the summer months are the busiest time of year for the store.

The Oasis Market is located at the junction of Highway 62 and Parker Dam Road in Earp, and is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends.



LANDS,

From Page 1

with staff from Senator Jon Kyl’s office, the federal Department of the Interior and the Governor’s Office to address issues that were raised during the hearing.

Those issues have now been mostly resolved and incorporated into draft legislation that would officially return the lands to CRIT.

And on May 15, *The Arizona Republic* gave the effort another boost by endorsing the return of the La Paz Lands.

“It has been a worthy struggle, a struggle that has lasted nearly 90 years. And it’s within the power of Congress to bring it to a noble end by returning 16,000 acres of land that were wrongly taken from the Colorado River Indian Tribes,” the *Republic* wrote.

“Congress should do so. It must remedy an injustice against these tribes — Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo.”

CRIT’s efforts to regain the La Paz Lands have been boosted by strong, bi-partisan support from Arizona’s congressional delegation. All members are in favor of the Tribes’ efforts.

Additionally, the Bush administration has expressed its support for the return of the lands to CRIT.

“We’re very grateful to the Arizona congressional delegation, and particularly Congressman Raul Grijalva, for their efforts to return these lands to our people,” Eddy, Jr. said. “With their help, we are closer than ever to righting this injustice that was done so many years ago.”

2004 La Paz Run commemorates journeys

More than 60 people took part in the 2004 La Paz Run, held in late April in a cooperative effort between the Hualapai Tribe and CRIT.

The run commemorates the forced march by the Hualapai in the mid 1860s from their ancestral homelands to CRIT lands and back.

In 1865 the U.S. Department of War attempted to remove the Hualapai from their ancestral homelands. In April of 1874 the Hualapai were gathered and forced to march to the La Paz Concentration Camp on the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

After a year of captivity, in April of 1875, reaching desperation, the surviving Hualapai undertook the arduous journey to return to their homelands. Ignoring orders from the local Indian Agent, the Army chose not to pursue them.

To commemorate this event the Hualapai Tribe holds a memorial three-day run starting



Hualapai and CRIT members mark the beginning of the La Paz Run and dedication of a new monument. Photo by Pete Imus.

at the original La Paz Concentration Camp site, covering 140 miles into Peach Springs.

This year, the event also included dedication of a new monument in Poston marking the sacrifice of the Hualapais who made the journeys.

The Hualapai tribal members who were involved in the run thank CRIT for their assistance.

Announcements

One year ago, many were heartbroken when beloved Aunt, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Friend, Elsie Scott, left us behind.

This past year has been very hard on many of us, who always reminisce on the precious moments they had with her. Family and friends will treasure their memories forever in their hearts. Now the



time has come for us to let go and to understand that she will never be forgotten.

The great memorial gathering in her honor will take place June 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., at the Colorado River Indian Tribes Big House.

The Manataba Messenger welcomes submissions for anniversaries, wedding announcements, obituaries, graduations and other events. For contact information, see the information below.

We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The publication welcomes letters, submissions and other contributions from Tribal members or related to Tribal issues.

If you have an idea, question, suggestion, letter to the editor or anything else you’d

like to see in the *Manataba Messenger*, call or write us...

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Special thanks to Melissa Drennan, photographer for the *Manataba Messenger*.

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Now you can reach the 3,500 members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes directly. *Manataba Messenger*, the official publication of CRIT, is distributed by mail to all members and at newsstands at prominent locations.

For more information, please call (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.



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